Nov. 21, 1974

Dear Harold,

I read your letter five times. Because of the fact there's evidence of mail [redacted] tampering, I guess you have purposely written a most [redacted] cryptic letter. Your prhaselogy is most ambiguous, but I suppose it was intentionally so worded because of the possibility of interception by outside parties.

For that reason, I have composed [redacted] letter to be [redacted] equally equivocal.

First, I think I have an inkling as to the subject matter of the first matter you posed. I think you are referring to a disclosure you thought most significant--but one which I beseeched you to proceed very carefully [redacted] because it involved a very important source, which has warned me that he would repudiate the information if I should ever divulge it. Based on the disclosure, I believed you were going to proceed [redacted] a collateral source, one that might be in a position to have obtained the same information gained by my source. As I recall, you tried to pin me down on the reliability and credibility of this collateral source, but I could not help you--not that I [redacted] lacked the volition--but that I never intimately knew the party you referred to, except for his known activity in matters not related to the subject I knew you were interested in.

Second, I think I know what you are alluding to but I do not know what you could have done with it, except corroborate what you and I already both know. I believe I offered to assist in helping you, transportation etc, but we never did consummate the agreement, I never found out whether you contacted and talked to this source. However, what fears I expressed at the time--fears that my involvement would become known to parties this [redacted] source was associated with--[redacted] may have been justified at the time I expressed them, but subsequent events have made them moot.

The "specifics" you requested may be hard to come by because what I know, I have deduced from the barest bones of a conversation with a superior who requested my resignation, but at the same time interceded to see that my salary would be paid through the first of the year, on [redacted] two conditions:

first, I would not file any grievance with the guild or any other agency concerning my departure from the paper; and

second, I would have some two months of free time--plus three weeks additional vacation pay which technically had not accrued--on the company payroll, without any assignments, duties, and which I could spend away from the office. In other words, the company is paying me for two months to stay away from the office and not fulfill any assignments for the paper during this time....

[redacted]

(more)

[redacted]

I plan to be in Cambridge, Mass., from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 for a workshop. My finances, like yours, will be somewhat tight but I believe it will be worth my while if I go via New York City and be in New York City on Jan. 28-29 to interview a very [redacted] important source which I had earlier identified to you and the relevance of the information and documents possessed by this source.

As much as I would like to go via Washington, D.C., and Md., it will be entirely out of the question. COULD YOU POSSIBLY MEET ME IN NEW YORK--time and place worked out later--AND BE PRESENT WHEN I INTERVIEW THIS WITNESS? YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK. ALSO YOUR SKEPTICAL NATURE MIGHT COUNTER-BALANCE MY TENDENCY TO BELIEVE WHAT THIS PARTICULAR PARTY HAS TO RELATE.....

YOUR FRIEND AND ALLY,

Wayne Chastain Jr.

Wayne Chastain Jr.

P.S....I still feel that it better to more paranoid than trusting, but when it comes to the Post Office, it is a fact that [redacted] their inefficiency has become legend in the past year. I have had difficulties with letters and packages not pertaining to the subject that would warrant tampering. Computerized inefficiency has caused many letters to be returned to sender where the wrong apartment number is attached...etc, etc...of course, that would not account for long delays in delivery to your residence in Maryland, unless the zip code was left off, or was listed erroneously, etc